DA Probe Figure Arrested on Bad Check Charges

Dante A. Marochini, an early witness in the probe of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of the assassination of President Kennedy, was arrested here today on a bad check warrant from Shelby, N. C.

Marochini said he did not remember the check transaction in question.

Asst. DA James L. Alcock said the arrest had "absolutely nothing" to do with the assassination probe.

Alcock theorized that the North Carolina authorities spotted Marochini's name and picture in the papers after his appearance as a witness and that this is probably the reason for the arrest after such a long period of time (since 1961).

A warrant for the Michoud space plant worker's arrest was sent from the sheriff of Cleveland County, N. C., to Frank Meloche, a detective in Garrison's office, who turned it over to Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr.

—States-Item Photo.
DANTE A. MAROCHINI

THE WARRANT CHARGES that in 1961 Marochini wrote out a check for $113 payable to L. P. Mauney, Rt. 3, Lawnsdale, N. C.

The warrant stated that the check, drawn on the Union Trust Co. of Shelby, was not backed up by sufficient bank funds.

Marochini said in November of 1961 he had worked in the Shelby area in the housing contracting business.

IN MARCH, 1967, Marochi-

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ni appeared in Garrison's office, shortly after the arrest of Clay L. Shaw, who has been indicted in the alleged conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Marochini's connection with the case has never been made clear, although he was reportedly a friend and neighbor of Shaw.

Marochini, who would not discuss the probe today, said he is a native of Brooklyn, born of Italian parents. He indicated that he was in favor of the Garrison investigation and would not condemn it.

IN DECLINING TO comment on the probe, Marochini said: "We cannot add gasoline or water or anything" that might either excite or cool interest in the investigation.

Marochini, when he appeared in Garrison's office, told reporters, "I don't know what this thing is all about."